AA-2290

Patapsco State Park

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-22-2012

CAPSULE SUMMARY

Patapsco Valley State Park

MIHP # AA-2290, BA-3003, CARR-1662, HO-759 (SEE HO-759 FOR INVENTORY FORM AND PHOTOGRAPHS)

Elkridge to Sykesville

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard Counties, Maryland

Park = 1907

Public

Patapsco Valley State Park encompasses 14,250 acres in Anne Arundel (992 acres), Baltimore (4,541 acres), Howard (6,011 acres), and Carroll (2,706 acres) counties (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MdDNR) 2002). The park land stretches approximately 26 miles along the Patapsco River from west of Sykesville to just east of Baltimore Harbor. The river courses through the lengthy Fall Line zone that extends from approximately the villages of Alberton to Elkridge. East of Elkridge, the river becomes a broad, slow, relatively shallow stream that is affected by tidal action.

As a park, the property has been assembled from 1907 through the 1990s. The first acquisition was a 40-acre donation in the Hilton area. Until 1950, land acquisition was focused on the valley south of Ellicott City. During the 1950s, the park was expanded to incorporate lands north of Ellicott City and west to Sykesville. Most of the park is open space and forests. Recreation areas within the park have been designed as distinct, independent areas that support a wide-range of activities and park operations, but the recreation areas are not linked to form a unified entity. Thus, the park boundaries do not establish an identifiable entity that would qualify as a district for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The buildings that transferred with the land represent a disparate group of buildings that are unrelated to each other historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. The resources most intimately connected with the Patapsco River are the industrial buildings and sites that required waterpower or water resources to make their products. Most industrial resources located within park boundaries are archeological sites that have not been evaluated applying National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

Agricultural resources contained within the park boundaries are not related to each other. Agriculture was not a significant theme in Patapsco River valley, but in the upland areas bordering the river. Any agricultural buildings located within the park boundaries are actually on the edges of agriculturally productive areas.

While the built resources located within the boundaries of Patapsco Valley State Park do not qualify as a district, many possess the qualities of significance and integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places individually or in complexes as detailed in the accompanying table.

















